

# LASCA Leaves



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

## NEW ARBORETUM MASTER PLAN UNVEILED AT PREVIEW PARTY

ON THE EVENING of Oct. 16, the new master plan for the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum was unveiled to the people who can help transform the plan into reality. In an effort to create interest for the plan the Board of Trustees hosted community leaders at an early version of the Los Angeles Garden Show preview party.

"Look to the Future," theme of the preview party, featured renderings of plans designed by Jones and Jones landscape architects. When drawing up the plans, Jones and Jones took into consideration the many programs that the Arboretum already offers to citizens through its plant collections.

The master plan they designed to guide Arboretum development in the coming decades seeks to accommodate facilities for existing services as well as provide additional botani-

cal, horticultural and educational displays for people of all ages. They also hope to make better use of our facilities that afford necessary amenities for visitors.

After they examined renderings of nine Arboretum areas scheduled for upgrading, guests were guided on a tour of the Los Angeles Garden Show by Board of Trustee members.



*Francis Ching, Department Director; Carlton Norris, Manager of Community Relations for Atlantic Richfield Foundation; and Walter W. Hoyer, Engineer of Water Design for Department of Water and Power (from left) discuss the Arboretum master plan.*

LuAnn B. Munns



Ken Quigley

*Touring exhibits in Ayres Hall of Environmental Education during the Los Angeles Garden Show preview party are (from left) Sharon Thralls, Mrs. Frank Morse, Hanah Bradley, Jim Gamble and Hugh Macneil.*



Ken Quigley

*Members and guests of the Ladies Committee, Los Angeles Consular Corps, view exhibits of the Los Angeles Garden Show. Mrs. Gerry Schabarum (second from left) and Mrs. Odile Dewar (center) accompany the consular wives as they pause in the Demonstration Home Gardens.*

## CONSULAR CORPS WIVES VISIT LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW

WIVES OF 24 foreign representatives based in Los Angeles visited the Los Angeles Garden Show on Oct. 22. Each month the Ladies Committee, Los Angeles Consular Corps, visits outstanding attractions in the county. When Director Francis Ching invited the group to visit the Garden Show, 1986 chairman Mrs. Bingul Kristiansen of Denmark quickly accepted.

Accompanying members when they arrived at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum were Mrs. Gerry Schabarum and Mrs. Odile Dewar representing the County Board of Supervisors and Mrs. Sandra J. Ausman and Mrs. Yolanda O. Sanchez from the County Office of Protocol.

John Provine, Arboretum superintendent, and Mr. Ching led a narrated tour through the Garden Show exhibits and then moved discreetly into the background as the group dispersed among the tempting offerings in the Trade Mart.

As the ladies reboarded their bus after three hours, they carried away armloads of horticultural treasures, leaving behind a flurry of thanks and their enthusiastic praise for the Los Angeles Garden Show.

## ARBORETUM, CHINESE GARDEN EXCHANGE INAUGURAL VISITS

THE LOS ANGELES STATE and County Arboretum has been exchanging seeds of exotic plants with the South China Botanic Garden for decades but this fall for the first time they exchanged human representatives.

In October, Francis Ching, director of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, visited the garden of his counterpart in Canton (Guangzhou), China. Meanwhile, Professor Tang Chen-zi, director of the South China Botanic Garden

and assistant director of the South China Institute of Botany, continued the year-long study of the Arboretum and other American gardens that he began in July.

Both specialists hope to find plants in their host's garden that can be successfully introduced into their home landscapes halfway around the world. Mr. Ching pointed out that China has interesting plant material that is not readily available in the U.S.

Because South China, like Southern California, has a subtropical climate, many plants native there could generally be expected to grow well in Southern California. The list of native plants that, in theory, could be introduced into another landscape is, in reality, narrowed by other conditions besides climate. A horticulturist must know of local factors such as air and water qual-

ity and other urban problems that affect plants.

"There is a limit to what you can learn about an area's plant population by correspondence," Mr. Ching explained. "Only by actually visiting a location is it possible to evaluate all the environmental conditions that affect plants."

Mr. Tang is reviewing the plant collection at the Arboretum in light of his expertise in orchids, ferns, palms and aroids. Then when he returns to China, he expects to send back plants native to southwest China, that will fill gaps in the Arboretum's collection. Since he has also familiarized himself with private gardens in the area, he will be better able to select plants that are appropriate for our urban environment.

"I can see now that it wouldn't be good to send to the Arboretum any



Director Francis Ching examines a *Paphiopedilum dianthum*, part of the Arboretum orchid collection which Mr. Tang calls one of the best in the world.

giant or invasive bamboo," Mr. Tang said with a smile.

As a scholar, Mr. Tang is particularly interested in the Arboretum's orchids holdings, which he considers one of the best collections in the world of orchids grown under glass. After spending two and a half years at Kew Gardens in England researching orchid taxonomy in that garden's orchid herbarium and greenhouses, Mr. Tang looked forward to studying the collection at the Arboretum.

"There are so many species orchids at the Arboretum. You have orchids from all over the world, but they grow very happily here," he said. "The Arboretum's experience is worthwhile studying for ideas I can take back to Canton."

Canton is already a sister city to Los Angeles. Mr. Tang hopes that, in light of the many similarities between his garden and ours, the visits he and Mr. Ching exchanged can eventually lead to a corresponding "Sister Garden" arrangement between the Arboretum and the South China Botanic Garden.

## ROSE MARIE HEAD DONATES VALUABLE TREE TO GARDEN

**A**T CEREMONIES Oct. 16 at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum Rose Marie Head turned the first shovelful of dirt for the Henry Soto Water Conservation Gardens named after her late husband. Ms. Head, owner of Four Seasons Gardens and former president of the California Landscape Contractors Association, described how enthusiastic Mr. Soto had been about the water conservation gardens.

"Henry couldn't stand waste," she said, describing one of her husband's outstanding attributes which she said influenced all areas of his landscaping. This trait also explained the existence of the "bonsaied" Brazilian pepper tree valued at \$30,000 which she donated for the water saving garden. Several years ago, Mr. Soto had found the mature tree, pruned to resemble a gnarled bonsai specimen, in a client's garden that was to be cleared for renovation. The low-slung, spreading branches of the trained

tree impressed him so much that instead of felling it, he had the tree boxed and moved to Four Seasons Gardens.

"He had planned to use the tree in his own yard, but it was never to be," Ms. Head said. "Since he couldn't use it, what could be more fitting than to have the tree become part of something he believed in."

The tree is an important element in the design Bob Cornell of Cornell & Wiskar Landscaping, Inc. drew up for the Henry Soto Water Conservation Gardens. Volunteers from the California Landscape Contractors Association, Los Angeles/San Gabriel Valley Chapter will probably begin installing the water conservation gardens in January. Depending on the weather, the gardens should be completed by midsummer.

After Ms. Head turned the first shovelful of ground, she was followed by representatives of other donors including the California Arboretum Foundation, Atlantic Richfield Foundation, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Metropolitan Water District.

*Wielding shovels during Water Conservation Gardens groundbreaking ceremonies are (from left): Rose Marie Head, Four Seasons Gardens; Francis Ching, Department Director; Walter W. Hoyer, Department of Water and Power; Phillip E. Hitchcock, Metropolitan Water District; Alice (Mrs. Dudley W.) Thomas, California Arboretum Foundation president; and Richard Ray, California Arboretum Foundation first vice-president.*



"Fall Fantasies"

# LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW



WITH THE SUPPORT of the nursery and related industries, the Los Angeles Garden Show in 1986 continued to grow in the improved quality of the exhibits. Sweepstakes winner in the show, which ran Oct. 17 - 26 at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, was a pink and white art deco pavilion set among swirls of colorful foliage and blooming plants. Monrovia Nursery created the design that covered about 4,000 square feet.

During the 10-day show, approximately 30,000 visitors walked through the grand allee bordered by pastel tree silhouettes and central arbor created by landscape designer Chris Rosmini.

"Fall Fantasies," the 1986 theme, inspired a wide range of designs among the 65 landscape artists who competed in the annual horticultural extravaganza.

Besides the sweepstakes prize, 18 other exhibitors won awards. Among professional landscape artists Love and Care Horticultural Services won top honors in both the category for large gardens and for best overall design. Their garden featured a rocky brook spanned by a curved footbridge.

Sassafras Farms won in the medium-sized category with a flowered English garden. In the small garden category, Wrightwood design-

ers Britton Landscapes and Glenn Martin Landscape Designs won with a Japanese water garden. The moving fountain in their garden



*A waterfall in the C & C Landscape Assistance garden fascinates a young visitor to the Los Angeles Garden Show. (Photos by LuAnn B. Munns)*

also won the award for best use of special interest items.

In the amateur category, the Los Robles Horticulture Club, Cal Poly Pomona designed a pocket park for their winning display. The Pasadena Garden Club won the blue ribbon for their green and white composition in the Home Demonstration Garden.

Other awards went to UCLA Extension for the best use of theme (exterior) and the LA County Agricultural Commissioner / Weights and Measures for the best use of theme (interior) and the best use of edibles.

Southern California Horticultural Institute won the award for the best use of color. Rogers Gardens won for their hanging plant baskets and Desert to Jungle Nursery for use of rare plants.

Tom Matsuoka Landscape Contractors' exhibit was judged to have made the best use of the poster theme. Cornell & Wiskar won in the hardscapes category.

Rudy's Landscaping placed first for an interior display. The top educational exhibit went to the California Arboretum Foundation Adult Education Program.

Two merchants in the Trade Mart tied for first place: Sassafras Farms and O'Farrior Topiary.

Honorable mentions went to Bouquet Garden Boutique, Brown Jordan, Baikoen Kenkyukai Bonsai, C & C Landscape Assistance, Iwasaki Landscaping, Weidner's Begonia Gardens/The Blacksmith, Tatum's Nursery & Gifts Shop, Los Angeles Chapter of California Association of Nurserymen, and Burkard's Nursery.

Can they top this in 1987? Director Francis Ching summed up the 1986 show and issued a new challenge: "We look forward to new and innovative exhibits next year in the Los Angeles Garden Show, a floral and garden show which is already the finest that can be found anywhere."



*Below: Monrovia Nursery won the Sweepstakes Award with this pavilion surrounded by swirls of flowers and foliage.*

*Above: Cliff Montgomery shows how to shape a bonsai tree in the Baikoen Kenkyukai exhibit at the Los Angeles Garden Show.*





*A moving fountain in the small garden by Britton Landscape and Glenn Martin Landscape Designs won an award.*



*The restful garden designed by Desert to Jungle Nursery won the award for best use of rare plants in the Los Angeles Garden Show.*



*The Pasadena Garden Club created a topiary garden flanked by cyclamens for their exhibit in a corner of the Demonstration Home Gardens.*



Decorations with the theme "Carnivale" filled the interior of a huge tent on the main lawn of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum on Oct. 30. The Arboretum was the setting for a party given for about 1,000 guests by the Breeders' Cup Ltd. and the Oak Tree Racing Association as a preliminary to the International Breeders' Cup Stakes at Santa Anita. To make way for the anticipated crowd, the Arboretum closed early on Nov. 1, the day of the race.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 1987

### SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

**JANUARY 4 — 2 p.m.**

Rose Pruning Demonstration  
South Coast Rose Society

**JANUARY 11 — 2 p.m.**

Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration  
South Coast Botanic Garden  
Foundation

**JANUARY 18 — 2 p.m.**

"Technical Approach to Nature  
Photography"  
Bill Ormerod

**JANUARY 24, 25 — Sat. 1 to 5:00 p.m.  
Sun. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Camellia Show  
South Coast Camellia Society

**FEBRUARY 1 — 2 p.m.**

Fuchsia Pruning Demonstration  
Ida Drapkin

**FEBRUARY 8 — 2 p.m.**

"What to Do For Your Orchids  
in February"  
Dave DeYoung

**FEBRUARY 15 — 2 p.m.**

Azalea and Camellia Talk  
Eleanor Barker

**FEBRUARY 22 — 2 p.m.**

"Beginning Your Summer Garden"  
Sid Horton and Gloria Rice

### LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

**JANUARY 11 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Gladiolus Bulb Sale  
Southern California Gladiolus Society  
**JANUARY 24, 25 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
Bonsai Show  
Baiko-en Kenkyukai Bonsai Society

**FEBRUARY 7, 8 — Sat. 1 to 4:30 p.m.  
Sun. 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Camellia Show  
Temple City Camellia Society

**FEBRUARY 22 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Wild Mushroom Fair  
The Los Angeles Mycological Society

**MARCH 7, 8 — Sat. 12 to 4:30 p.m.  
Sun. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Flower Show  
Sierra Madres Girl Scout Council  
**MARCH 14 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Environmental Education Fair  
California Arboretum Foundation

### DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada Flintridge

**JANUARY 10 — 1 to 4 p.m.**

Rose Pruning Demonstration  
Descanso Gardens Guild

**JANUARY 30 through FEBRUARY 26 —  
Weekdays 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Weekends 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Membership Art Show  
Descanso Gardens Guild

**FEBRUARY 11, 25 and MARCH 11 —  
7 to 9 p.m.**

Xeriscape Symposium  
Descanso Gardens Guild

**FEBRUARY 21, 22 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Camellia Show  
Descanso Gardens Guild

**FEBRUARY 28 — 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Basket Weaving Workshop  
Descanso Gardens Guild

**MARCH 28 through APRIL 5 —  
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Spring Flower Show  
Descanso Gardens Guild